

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS:JVC
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:SMOREYBELL
S/AB:EBUNKER (DRAFT)
ARA:HRYAN (DRAFT)
ARA/PAF:RFIMBRES (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING WAS PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON AN QUOTE IF ASKED UN-
QUOTE BASIS. EMBASSY MAY USE ON SAME BASIS:

QUESTION: THERE ARE REPORTS THAT TORRIJOS HAS ACCUSED
THE DEPARTMENT OF VIOLATING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE
NEGOTIATION, OF STIMULATING AN ANTI-TREATY CAMPAIGN IN
THIS COUNTRY, AND OF BEING UNYIELDING ON NEGOTIATING
ISSUES. ANY COMMENT?

ANSWER: WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE BASIS OF THESE REPORTS
FROM PANAMA.

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE
CONTENT OF THIS DELICATE AND IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION SHOULD
REMAIN PRIVILEGED UNTIL THE ENTIRE SHAPE OF THE NEW TREATY
ARRANGEMENT CAN BE DESIGNED.

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IN ANY CASE, SENIOR UNITED STATES OFFICIALS HAVE

PUBLICLY REITERATED RECENTLY, IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND PANAMA, THIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

(IF PERTINENT QUESTION IS ASKED: THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS ARE AWARE THAT THEIR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED -- SINCE THE LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS --

IN PREPARING THE UNITED STATES' POSITIONS FOR THE NEXT ROUND. NATURALLY THESE WILL NOT BE "NON-NEGOTIABLE" POSITIONS. WE ARE NEGOTIATING...NOT IMPOSING.)

I WILL REITERATE ONCE MORE THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO MOVE FORWARD IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. INGERSOLL

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